



County of San Diego
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
FOOD AND HOUSING DIVISION

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**POTABLE WATER REQUIREMENTS FOR
A COTTAGE FOOD OPERATION**

An approved source of potable water is required for all cottage food operations. If the water will be provided by a regulated water district or small water system where water quality analysis is performed on a routine basis to ensure the water supply meets minimum bacterial and chemical standards, no further action is necessary.

If the water for the cottage food operation will be obtained from a private water well, the water source must meet the primary water quality standards for a transient, non-community water system. Analytical data results will be required to be submitted to the Department of Environmental Health prior to approval of a Class A or Class B operation. In addition, on an annual basis, Class B operations must demonstrate at permit renewal that the water system meets the bacterial water standard. The analysis must be performed for the constituents listed below and must be completed by a California state certified laboratory. Should the water supply not meet the minimum "potable" water quality standards required by law, the cottage food operation will not be approved until proof of a complying water supply is submitted.

Initial Analysis (Class A and B Operations)

The initial analysis shall consist of a total coliform bacteria test which shows the absence of coliforms bacteria. In addition, an inorganic chemicals test is required to demonstrate all required constituents tested are at or below the maximum contaminant levels (MCL) shown in the following table.

Inorganic Chemicals	MCL
Aluminum	1.0 mg/L
Antimony	0.006 mg/L
Arsenic	0.010 mg/L
Barium	1.0 mg/L
Beryllium	0.004 mg/L
Cadmium	0.005 mg/L
Chromium (Total)	0.05 mg/L
Cyanide	0.15 mg/L
Fluoride	2.0 mg/L
Mercury	0.002 mg/L
Nickel	0.1 mg/L
Nitrate (as N)	10.0 mg/L
Nitrite (as N)	1.0 mg/L
Perchlorate	0.006 mg/L
Selenium	0.05 mg/L
Thallium	0.002 mg/L

Annual Analysis (Class B Operations Only)

The annual analysis shall consist of a total coliform bacteria test which shows the absence of coliforms bacteria.

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